

May 15, 2007

## GREETINGS FROM THE MADISON



# SW Montana 07 Spring News Letter

Well the season is fast approaching and everyone is starting to get ready for another summer.

Things are moving along at a pretty good clip at the office as well. The Board is in the process of hiring field personnel for the county weed program and a plan of work for the season is being developed. Numerous things are happening in the office in scheduling Farm Applicator Trainings and other educational opportunities and renewing cooperative opportunities throughout the county. The county will once again be treating the county roads, road shops, dumpsites etc., as well as managing acres for the Department of Transportation, Fish Wildlife & Parks and Bureau of Land Management.

The office has been quite busy working on plans for work on Trust Fund grants throughout Madison County. This year we will continue working with landowners in the Upper Jefferson River grant area. There is still approximately \$12,675.00 available to cost/share in this area. Vigilante Weed Management Project Phase II will have \$15,138.00 available to cost/share landowners this year and a

new grant Norwegian/South Willow Creek Drainage will offer \$26,89.00 in cost/share to project cooperators. The County will again act as sponsors for the Madison Valley Ranchlands Weed committee for the Madison Watershed Project. Cost share available to landowners through this grant will range from \$35,000.00 to 40,000.00. Cost share for this project will be made available through a Trust Fund Grant, Madison Valley Conservation District, MVRG Weed Committee and the Madison County Weed Board. The Madison County Weed Board will again be offering regular herbicide cost/share to residents that are not part of these grant areas. This is a 50/50 cost share for herbicide only and is capped at \$750.00 per resident. If you would like more information concerning these grant areas or the regular herbicide cost/share, please call Margie or Janie at (406) 843-5594.

Well here's hoping everyone has a safe and productive summer. Until the next time.

Margie Edsall, Coordinator  
Madison County Weed Board

### Area Contacts

**Anaconda/Deer Lodge County**  
Sharon Scognamiglio 563-4055

**Beaverhead County**  
Jack Eddie 683-3790

**Broadwater County**  
Pam Converse 266-9243

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## BEAVERHEAD COUNTY SPRING REPORT

The calendar is getting full, the weather is warming up, and the weeds will soon start to grow. Over the winter Beaverhead County participated in the MWCA Annual meeting in Helena, a conflict resolution workshop at Chico Hot Springs, as well as the Noxious Weed Trust Fund Hearings in Helena. Things went well at the Trust Fund Hearings, funding was proposed for Beaverhead River, Big Hole River, and East Bench Canal Weed Projects.

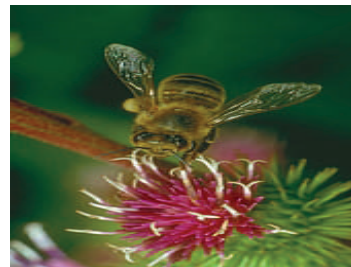
On April 4th a private applicator training was held in Three Forks, MT. Also, on

April 12th the newly reinstated Beaverhead County Weed Task Force met to organize the group and develop goals for the group. Beaverhead County also attended the Spring coordinators Training April 17-18 in Deer Lodge, MT.

The season will begin June 4 with Crew Training. Crew Training will be held in Dillon this year at the Search and Rescue Building June 4-6. Not wasting any time, the first spray day of the season is scheduled for June 7th at the Lima Dam. The annual Beaverhead County Weed Day is scheduled for July 14th. Again

this year the Blacktail, Bannack, and Poindexter Slough areas will be the focus of the day. At the end of the day a barbeque will be held for all participants.

If you would like to participate or have any other questions call the Beaverhead County Weed Office at 683-3790.



## BROADWATER COUNTY By: Pam Converse



Hello from the Broadwater County Weed District Office. As the busy weed season approaches, you will begin to see our sprayers out on the state and

county roads. We have once again contracted out all of the state highways and interstate spraying, along with a small amount of spring spraying on county roads. Please give them the courtesy and respect they deserve. As you know they are a valuable asset to our program. Two will be on the spray crew and one will be doing the fieldwork for year four of the Special Weed EQIP project through the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

A grant was submitted through the Noxious Weed Trust Fund for the Townsend Bug and Weed kids' 2007 project. Though the original request was not fully funded, the students and teachers will provide as much service to the county as they can with the available funds. The focus this summer will be on mapping noxious weeds in the Northwest area of the county. Weed education in the subdivisions will be completed as time and funds allow as well. Two local cooperative grants will be submitted for possible funding next month through the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation. This would provide landowners in the Elkhorn's with a 50% cost share on herbicide and applications costs.

Broadwater County will have several sprayers for rent. We have slide-in sprayers along with sprayers mounted on trailers so that they can be pulled behind a

truck or a four-wheeler. Please call ahead to reserve one for the day or for the weekend.

If you are interested in obtaining biological control insects this summer, you should contact your county weed district office soon, so that you can get your name on the list. Biological control agents are a great tool for those noxious weeds in hard to access areas and there is no cost to the landowners for them.

To sign up for bio. control insects, rental sprayers or to receive information on herbicide, equipment, re-vegetation or weed identification please contact the Broadwater County Weed District Weed District at 226-9243.

## BIG HOLE WATERSHED COMMITTEE By: Jeanne Caddy

The Big Hole Watershed Weed Committee (BHWWC) is gearing up for another spray season and is ready to hit the ground running. The BHWWC is comprised of a group of ranchers, small landowners, government agency representatives, and others. All are stakeholders, putting forth their best effort to fight noxious weeds within the Big Hole River Watershed. With funds from the Noxious Weed Trust Fund, contractors will be spraying three sections of the river beginning at Squaw Creek in the upper reach

to the confluence with the Beaverhead River in the lower reach. The project will run the course of the summer and fall.

The BHWWC will be hosting small town meetings around the watershed in an effort to raise awareness about noxious weeds. We'll also be encouraging communities to form local weed management areas.

We'll end our weed control season with our annual fundraiser, the **Weed Whacker Ball**. I invite you all to join us September

15th in Wise River as we wind up another weed fighting season. We'll be serving up some fine food, plenty of drinks and a whole lot of auction items. So come hungry, wear your dancing shoes and support us in our mission to maintain the integrity of the Big Hole River Watershed by controlling noxious weeds



Great fly fishing and scenery await anglers on the [Big Hole River](#), seen here downstream from Wisdom, Montana. The Anaconda-Pintlar Mountains are the mountain range seen in the background.

# POWELL COUNTY WEED DISTRICT

A helicopter herbicide spraying workshop sponsored by the US Forest Service and organized by the University of Montana was held April 10-12 in the Powell County Community Center. The purpose of the workshop was to improve techniques for noxious weed control using helicopters. There were 55 attendees and speakers from the private sector and government agencies, including invasive species managers and helicopter herbicide spraying specialists from Hawaii, Maine, Texas, West Virginia and Florida.

Will Hogan of Heliworks provided actual helicopter herbicide spraying demonstrations. The Powell County Weed District was the local host for the workshop.

On April 13th, the Powell County Weed District hosted the 5th Annual Powell County Public Agency Noxious Weed

Meeting. The goal of the meeting was to foster communication between agencies involved with noxious weed management in Powell County and to provide an educational forum for agency personnel.

The MWCA Spring Coordinators training session was held April 17-18 in Deer

Lodge. An afternoon field tour looked at Milestone plots, railroad and highway rights of way, a fishing access site, and a leafy spurge sheep grazing area. More than 60 people attended and presented at the training.



April 17th,  
MWCA Spring  
Coordinators  
Training Field  
Tour.

Photo by:  
Jodi Pauley

## JEFFERSON COUNTY By: Sam Little

It is the time of year when most of us should install a cooling system on the telephone so the lines won't over heat..

The Jefferson County Weed District is gearing up for a busy summer. This season we will be working on the Fish Creek Grant Project. This grant is from the U.S. Department of Agriculture through the NRCS and part of the Grazing Land Conservation Initiative Program.

There are two components. First is weed control of Leafy spurge and Knapweed. The second is a science section to look at

bio control and see where it is working and where it is not and why ( if there is a reason). We will also be checking out different herbicides combinations for the amount of control over time. This will help us in the future to give site specific recommendations.

Jefferson County Weed District will also be setting up a public education and outreach program to give information to the large amount of new lot owners in the

county.

Our cost share program expects about 200 to 250 users this season. All this, along with the subdivision load will wear out our pencils and boots this summer.

Thanks to Jason Smith of Powell County for an excellent spring meeting.

## UP COMING EVENTS & SPRAY DAYS

### MADISON COUNTY:

June 4 & 5 Southwest Area Crew Training (Dillon)

May 16 Beartrap Trail w/ BLM

June 13 Burma Rd w/BLM & Beaverhead Co.

June 23 Ruby Weed Day

July 9 Cataract Lake w/BLM & FS

July 14 Beaverhead Weed Day

### BEAVERHEAD COUNTY:

June 7 Lima Dam

June 12 Wise River

June 13 Burma Rd

June 16 Wise River

June 19 Maiden Rock

June 21 Snowline

June 22 Wise River Cemetery

June 227 Montana/Idaho

June 28 -Big Sheep

June 30- Blacktail Ridge Rd

July 3-Lima

July 5 -Wisdom

July 7 -Grasshopper

July 10 -Cop Jackson

July 11 -Small Horn

July 12 -BVHD-Ravalli

July 14 -BVHD County

July 17 -Trapper Cr

July 21- Wise River Pull

July 26 -Medicine Lodge

July 28 -Monida Hill

August 22 -Wisdom

September 6 -Wise River



# MADISON VALLEY RANGLANDS GROUP By: Mellissa Griffiths

The time to turn our attention to fighting weeds once again is quickly coming! As the days get longer and the weather gets warmer we are reminded of this ongoing battle to control noxious weeds throughout the Madison Valley. The Weed Committee has been busy throughout the winter planning and preparing for the numerous projects we are currently involved in.

In March we hosted a “**Weed Summit**” workshop to bring together local citizens and weed professionals who work throughout southwest Montana. Representatives from the BLM, US Forest Service, NRCS, MT FW&P, Sheep Institution, Madison County Weed Board and Montana Weed Control Association were all on hand to discuss their various weed control programs and activities. It was a great opportunity for folks to learn about efforts on public lands, as well as learn some valuable tips on weed identification and treatment. The day was judged a success when everyone was asked if they learned something that day— all in attendance raised their hands and agreed that they had!

Along with the Madison County Weed Board we once again applied for the Department of Agriculture **Noxious Weed**

**Trust Fund Grant** to treat weeds along the Madison River Corridor and provide cost-share funding to landowners treating noxious weeds on private property within the Madison Valley. It looks like we will be funded, although we are waiting for final approval from the Department of Agriculture’s Director. In recent years there has been increasing competition for these monies and this year found the Trust Fund reviewing over 100 proposals which amounted to approximately 1 million dollars more than what they had funding for. As a result, some of the grants were funded at a reduced level. Our grant was one of these although we are working with Margie at the Madison County Weed Board to find a way to stretch the funding as far as possible. Once again all cost-share— will be distributed by the County. For information or to request forms feel free to contact the County Weed Board at 843-5594 or the MVRG Weed Committee at 682-3731.

For the past three years the Weed Committee has been involved in the Madison River Pilot Sheep Grazing Project. The goal of this project is to measure the impact that sheep grazing has on spotted knapweed, and the results have been so encouraging that all partners agreed to continue the project for an additional two years. This project is one of many ongoing projects that the Montana Sheep Institute is involved in across the state. Several projects have shown sheep to be very effective at controlling leafy spurge, but this Madison River project is particularly exciting as it is measuring the effectiveness of sheep grazing as a means to control spotted knapweed. Within the study area spotted knapweed seed-head production has been reduced by as much as 80 percent! The Weed Committee is looking forward to working with the Sheep Institute, BLM, Montana FW&P, and the County Weed Board once again to support this important project. We are planning on hosting a field trip this summer and one of the topics would be this sheep grazing project. If you are interested in learning more about this project or participation in the tour please contact the Weed Committee office at 682-3731 or [mgriffiths@3rivers.net](mailto:mgriffiths@3rivers.net).

This year’s Weeds Party (dinner & auction) will be held at the Wall Creek Game Range on August 4, 2007. We are excited to be able to hold the event at a location that is so important to wildlife and so rich in history. Invitations will be sent out late in June so keep an eye out! If you want to make sure that you receive an invitation or have any questions please don’t hesitate to call. We will once again be making our way around to local businesses and individuals to solicit your donations and support, for which we are so very thankful. Your continued generosity is vital to the Weed Committee’s participation in various projects and helps support weed control and education all year long! This event is so important because all of the money raised is used right here in the Madison Valley. If you are interested in supporting this fundraiser please call anytime you are the

## NEW WEEDS TO BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR!

For more information on these and other weeds please contact your County agents.



Blueweed



Flowering Rush



Japanese



Scotch Broom



Hoary Alyssum